GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3972
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
DISPOSAL OF TOXIC WASTES
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of ships load with hazardous chemical destine to India for dismantling purposes from world over;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to frame any guidelines in respect of dismantling of ships including these carrying hazardous substances in view of pollution, they cause to the environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to protect the country from toxic wastes carried by such ships in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b): The ships loaded with hazardous chemicals are not allowed into India for dismantling purposes.

(c) to (e): Ship breaking activities are carried out as per the directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition 657/95 in September 2007 with regard to safety, health and environmental considerations.

As per orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations covering all aspects of ship breaking. These recommendations are operative by virtue of the aforesaid Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007.

Guidelines to mitigate the environmental impacts due to ship breaking activities have been formulated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and circulated to all the State Pollution Control Boards and the Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories for implementation. Ministry of Steel, Government of India is preparing a National Code regarding ship breaking incorporating safety, health and environmental management considerations.